

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
TOWN OF NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

**Minutes of Meeting
August 22, 2016**

PRESENT: Matthew M. Toolan, Chairman
Christopher J. Gerstel, Vice Chairman
Cynthia J. Chaston, Member
David C. DiCicco, Member
Michelle S. Geddes, Member
Patricia M. Carey, Director
Robyn G. Fink, Assistant Director

GUESTS: *Eversource:* Chris Rodstrom, Domenic Nicotera, Jack Lopes
Epsilon Associates: Mike Howard
Community Center of Needham: Amy Hurley
YMCA Board Members: Janet Jankowiak, Connie Kaufman
Town Meeting Member: Ross Donald

Mr. Toolan called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM in the Charles River Room of the Public Services Administration Building.

1. **Minutes of Meeting of August 8, 2016:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 8, 2016. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerstel. The minutes of August 8, 2016 were approved unanimously.
2. **Director's Report:** Mr. Toolan complimented the Park and Recreation staff on all of the great PR throughout the summer. Ms. Carey reported that participants in the summer program at the YMCA continue to enjoy Rosemary Pool as the YMCA Pool is closed for repairs.
3. **Program Report:** Ms. Fink reported the fall registration date as Wednesday, September 7, 2016. Recreation Supervisor Sarah Mallard shared a look back at the summer through pictures.
4. **Action Items**
 - A. **Eversource Request for Easement:** Eversource representative Nic Nicotera spoke to the Commission about the request for a 30' easement across the former gravel pit off of Greendale Avenue. Eversource and Epsilon Associates will be meeting with the Board of Selectmen on September 6, 2016 to update them on the project. At this time, the geotechnical borings have not been done, but have started on the West Roxbury end of the route. It will take 2-3 days to complete. Eversource will inform the neighbors before the borings are done. There will be a Siting Board Public Hearing on September 27, 2016 at Town Hall, and neighbors

within 300 feet of the full project will be invited. Tree clearing will be needed for the project. Mr. Nicotera reported that the replanting of trees will be a part of the restoration project that they will work with and mediate with the Commission. Some large trees would need to be taken down and they are willing to replace the trees somewhere else in town if requested. Mrs. Chaston made a motion to recommend to Town Meeting and the Board of Selectmen the granting of a thirty-foot wide, perpetual, non-exclusive easement to NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for the purpose of installing, maintaining, repairing, replacing and operating an underground electric transmission line in and under a portion of the property known as the "Gravel Pit" under the jurisdiction of the Park and Recreation Commission, with exact location to be determined upon completion of field surveys and investigation of soil conditions. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerstel and approved unanimously.

- B. Commission Roles and Goals:** Ms. Geddes would like the investigation of pop-up skate parks added to the Commission Goals. Mr. Toolan suggested adding the study of new synthetic field products and options for infill mix to prepare for the replacement project within a few years. Within the roles of the Commission, Mrs. Geddes will now be the Liaison to Commission Appointees: Youth Services and Council on Aging. Mrs. Chaston made a motion to accept the Commission Goals and Roles as noted on Appendix A. Mr. Gerstel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
- C. Sage School Bus Stop Request:** Mrs. Chaston suggested the Commission not allow this as afternoon drop-off could be a conflict, the Commission could be held liable if there was an incident/accident. It would set a precedent to allow private use of a public lot. Ms. Carey pointed out that the DeFazio parking lot is not first priority to be plowed during snow storms so the area might not be available. Mr. Gerstel made a motion to deny The Sage School use of the DeFazio parking lot as a pickup and drop-off location September 7, 2016 through June 9, 2017. Mr. DiCicco seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.
- D. Special Event Request: Boston Ultimate Disc:** The Commission reviewed the request to hold a middle school ultimate disc tournament in the fall. Mr. DiCicco asked how many Needham children are involved with the tournament. Mrs. Chaston said she would be reluctant to displace a Needham based team. Mr. DiCicco made a motion to deny the Boston Ultimate Disc Alliance request for 2 fields near each other at Cricket Field, DeFazio Fields, High Rock School field, or Newman fields as no fields are available and they are late for a fall request. Mr. Gerstel seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. Mr. DiCicco suggested the program attend a future Commission meeting to provide more information about the program for any possible future uses.

5. Discussion Items:

A. Rosemary Recreation Complex Project:

- i. **Design:** Ms. Carey and Mr. Toolan attended the Design Review Board meeting with BH+A and received support for the project. The Conservation Commission will open their hearing on the project on Thursday, August 25th. The Planning Board will have a hearing on October 18, 2016. Ms. Carey provided information received earlier in the day from the solar consultant, but none of it has been analyzed. Mr. Toolan pointed out that the three design questions the Commission still needed to decide on were the roof line, solar options, and heating of the pool. Mrs. Geddes would like to see a shed roof if solar can either be added now or at a later date. Mr. Toolan reported that BH+A said the solar panels would not be enough to totally heat the pool or building but would contribute to energy savings. Mrs. Chaston believes the Commission should go with the recommendation of PPBC and Project Manager Mike Retzky for the sloped roof line. Ms. Carey noted that the building can also be “solar ready” for future installation. Ms. Carey gave a report on the pool water temperatures over the five summers. Mrs. Geddes would like to explore the use of blankets vs. a heating system.
- ii. **Financing**
- iii. **Programming**
- iv. **Marketing**
- v. **Closing Current Pool**

B. Capital Budget Requests: Ms. Carey reported that the following projects are being submitted for the Capital Budget Requests: Rosemary Recreation Complex construction, Cricket Field Building, Camp Property, playground improvements, Charles River Boat Launch construction, Athletic Fields Master Plan, and possible rail trail additional tasks. Mrs. Chaston believes the renovation of the Cricket Field building should be supported, as it needs to be maintained for long-time use.

C. Open Space Recreation Plan: Mrs. Chaston has met with Conservation Chairman Janet Carter Bernardo, Conservation Director Matt Varrell and Ms. Carey. Currently 38 people have shown interest to be on the advisory committee. A meeting will be scheduled for the end of September.

6. **Topics for Future Agendas:** Mrs. Chaston requested the Commission Appointees be invited to a Commission meeting to update the Commission on what they have been working on. Mr. DiCicco would like to see a programming survey sent out to the community. He will draft a survey.
7. **Adjournment:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. DiCicco and the meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Fink, CPRP
Assistant Director